

Joint Meeting of the Legislative Subcommittee (ACOVA)  
and North Dakota Veterans Coordinating Council  
October 17, 2008  
Comfort Inn, Bismarck, North Dakota

Called to order by Lee Finstad, Chairman. Pledge of Allegiance said and Moment of Silence for POWs and MIAs observed.

Present from ACOVA:

Lee Finstad	Mike Fisher	Dean Overby
Lyle Schuchard	Rudy Jenson	John Adolf

Present from NDVCC:

Gene Kouba	Ed Bennett	Bill Peschel
Larry Dakken	Skip Wing	Roy Fillion
Seb Roll	Greg Remus	Robert Bird

Others:

Lonnie Wangen, Commissioner, ND Veterans Affairs  
Jerry Samuelson, President, ND CVSO Association  
General Sprynozynatyk, Adjutant General, ND National Guard  
Major Davina French, Legislative Liaison  
Captain Michelle Hagl, JAG Officer  
Mary Kae Kelsch, ND Attorney General's Office

Guests:

June Veit, Senator Conrad's Office  
Mark Landis, Burleigh County VSO  
Ron Otto, Morton County VSO

General Sprynozynatyk spoke on some of the issues the National Guard will be dealing with this legislative session: Reintegration Activities – a process that starts at the moment of mobilization and continues after the service person returns home; Tuition Assistance Program; continuation of the Veterans Bonus Program; and the Recruiting and Retention Program. [Handout provided explaining items.]

Legislative Items – Lee Finstad, Chair

Veterans Home – Bill to amend and reenact section 1 of chapter 55 of the 2007 Session Laws, relating to a contingent appropriation to the veteran's home for the purpose of building a new facility. Additional language would be added so the bill reads, "to demolish the existing veterans' home with the exception of the 1991 additions...".

The 1991 addition could be used for a Community Based Outreach Clinic or other purpose.

***Motion by Dean Overby to support the additional language, second by Larry Dakken. Motion passed.***

Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs – Bill to amend and reenact section 37-18.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to membership and appointment to the administrative committee on veterans' affairs. The additional language is to add the President of the ND County Veterans Service Officer Association and the Executive Director of the ND Association of Counties as ex-officio members to the Administrative Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Discussion on including the President of the Professional Veterans Advocates of North Dakota. This is a new organization composed of ND county veterans service officers.

***Motion by Dean Overby to accept the additional language as proposed, second by Lyle Schuchard. Motion passed.***

Income Tax Reduction – Bill to create and enact a new subdivision to subsection 2 of section 57-38-30.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to an income tax deduction for retired military pay; to amend and reenact subdivisions k and l of subsection 1 of section 57-38-01.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to an income tax deduction for retired military personnel pay. The same bill was submitted last legislation session and received a “do not pass” from the committee. Not too many problems with the fiscal note but questions were raised on the number that would stay and some other areas of the bill.

***Motion by Mike Fisher to support bill, second by Lyle Schuchard. Motion passed.***

Lee Finstad relinquished chair to Gene Kouba.

Legislative Items – Gene Kouba, Chair

Resolution to add handicap sticker to DAV License Plate.

***Motion by Roy Fillion to support resolution as legislative item, second by Larry Dakken. Motion passed.***

Resolution for US Highway 3 to be known as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.

***Motion by Lee Finstad to support resolution as legislative item, second by Ed Bennett. Motion passed.***

Resolution to designate I94 as the POW/MIA Memorial Highway.

***Motion by Larry Dakken to support resolution as legislative item, second by Lee Finstad. Motion passed.***

Resolution to provide property tax reduction for veterans with a combined rating of 100%.

***Motion by Lee Finstad to support resolution as legislative item, second by Mike Fisher. Motion passed.***

Resolution to change the wording of a rule in the ND Century Code for games of chance. The current rule limits rent payment at a site and does not make allowances for the installation of

more than one dispensing machine. The change would be to allow additional rent for additional machines.

***Motion by Lee Finstad to support resolution as legislative item, second by Larry Dakken.***

***Motion passed.***

Resolution regarding charitable gaming to eliminate excise tax that is currently attached on the gross revenue for gaming.

***Motion by Dean Overby to support resolution as legislative item, second by Lyle Schuchard.***

***Motion passed.***

Motion by Jerry Samuelson for proposal from the American Legion regarding regionalization of county veterans service officers be reconsidered. Motion dies from lack of second.

Gene Kouba relinquished chair to Lee Finstad.

Commissioner Wangen spoke on the process of an applicant who wants to file an appeal on a veterans preference case. He would like legislation that would amend 37-19.01-4 so the employer is required to notify an applicant, by restricted certified letter, about their appeal rights and the filing procedure.

***Motion by Roy Fillion to accept proposed legislation, second by Dean Overby. Motion passed.***

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Finstad  
Chairman, Legislative Subcommittee (ACOVA)

Gene Kouba  
President, NDVCC